(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The National Youth Policy is under formulation.

Pulling back of troops from Indo-Pak Border by India

127. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India took the initiative in May this year by pulling back its troops bases and installations all along the Indo-Pak border and the line of actual control in J & K, so as to ensure that Pakistan would also reciprocate by withdrawing their troops positions to diffuse tension; and

(b) if so, what has been the Pakistani response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes Sir. All armoured units carrying out training at Mahajan Ranges were unilaterally moved to their permanent locations in June, 1990 by India with a view to diffuse tension.

(b) There is information of some elements of Pak Armed Forces being in the process of moving back to their permanent locations. The position is being closely monitored.

World Bank Aid to India and China under UN Environment Programme

128. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(b) whether at the Montreal Conference held in the last week of June, 1990, under U.N. aegis with a view to protecting the Ozone layer $ 40 million each of aid was committed to India and China from out of a $ 240 million fund run by the World Bank, under UN environment programme etc.;

(b) if so, what were the terms of the aid; and

(c) the steps being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The second meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was held at London from 27-29 June, 1990. The Parties have agreed to establish a financial mechanism to assist the developing countries in switching over to ozone safe technologies. They have also agreed to set up an interim fund of US $ 160 million for the three year period from 1.1.1991 to 31.12.1993 which could be raise by another US $80 million if more developing countries become parties to the Protocol. There is no commitment for earmarking any amount to India or any other country in particular out of the proposed fund.

(b) The fund has not yet become operational and therefore, terms on which money is made available are to be framed. The purpose of the fund is to assist developing countries, who are Parties to the Protocol, to switch over to ozone safe technologies.

(c) India is not a signatory to the Montreal Protocol and a final decision is yet to be taken about joining the Protocol as amended at the London Conference.

Montreal Protocol to Protect Ozone Layer

129. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State in his Ministry had attended the International Conference held in second half of June 1990 under the auspices of UN at Montreal for evolving an international protocol, called the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer of the globe;

(b) if so, what factors were identified by the Conference as contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer;

(c) what steps were undertaken to be taken by the signatories to the protocol including India; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred by Government per annum in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Minister of State for Environment and Forests led the Indian delegation to the second meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held at London from 27-29 June, 1990.

(b) Scientific research has conclusively established that chloroflucrocarbons (CFCs) and halons cause depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere. The Montreal Protocol aims at reduction and eventual elimination of these ozone depleting substances. The Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at London was to consider amendments to the Protocol for its effective implementation by a larger number of countries and a quicker reduction and elimination of zone depleting substances.

(c) India is not a signatory to the Montreal Protocol. The signatories to the Montreal Protocol have evolved a time-table to reduce and eventually eliminate major ozone depleting substances by the year 2000.

(d) In case India does join the Protocol, there will be no expenditure to be borne by the Government, though there may be financial implication for the manufacturers and users of ozone depleting substances. The incremental costs for switching over to ozone safe technologies are proposed to be met out of the international fund established under the Montreal Protocol, as decided upon at the London Conference. The expenditure to be incurred for complying with the Protocol will depend on the strategy, timing and the nature of ozone-safe technologies.

Agreement for sharing knowledge to Prevent Depletion of Ozone Layer

130. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was reached in response to India's plea made at the Montreal Conference calling upon developed countries to share their knowledge and technique with developing countries to prevent depletion of the Ozone layer and to provide subsitutes for Chloroflurocarbons (CFC) necessary for airconditioning refrigeration and insultation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction and follow up action in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The second meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was held at London from 27-29 June, 1990. In the meeting it was decided that the Parties would take every practicable step to ensure availability of ozone-safe technologies under fair and most favourable conditions to the developing countries. The Government is considering India's stand regarding the Montreal Protocol.